

**REMARKS**

Claims 3-17 are pending in this application. Claims 3-5, 8-11, and 14-16 stand rejected and claims 6, 7, 12, 13, and 17 are objected to. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, and 18-20 are cancelled without prejudice and claims 3-12 and 16 have been amended. The amendments made to the claims do not alter the scope of these claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made to improve the form thereof. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6, 7, 12, 13, and 17. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

By this amendment, Applicant has rewritten the allowable claims 6, 7, and 12 in independent form and changed the dependencies of claims 3-5 and 8-11 to ultimately depend from one of allowable claims 6, 7, or 12.

Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Dated: May 19, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Ian R. Blum

Registration No.: 42,336

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &  
OSHINSKY LLP

1177 Avenue of the Americas

41st Floor

New York, New York 10036-2714

(212) 835-1400

Attorney for Applicant